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# Florida WILDLIFE

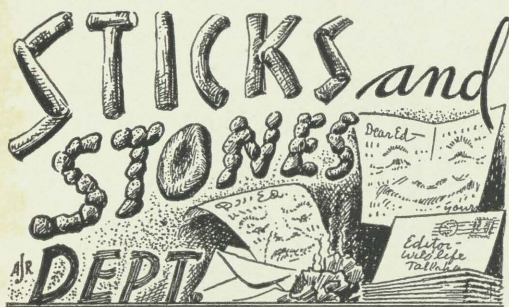


PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME  
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

*Florida's Stricken Waters!*

*Beginning in  
this Issue*





## LAST GAME, FISH FRONTIER

Dear Sir:

This is the first winter since 1927 that I have not spent in Florida. To say I do not miss it's warmth and beauty and it's natural wealth of fishing and hunting would be far from true. Although the two most important resources have dwindled considerably since 1927, they still remain far ahead of the majority of states and territories, and I hope never to see the day when I have no desire to return to Florida because of their loss through exploitation.

The article on Florida by Dave Newell in the February issue of Sports Afield and Governor Warren's guest editorial in your February *Florida Wildlife* should be read by every sportsman. To preserve Florida as one of the last of our country's fish and game frontiers is a project well worthwhile.

HEDLEY GILLINGS  
Sea Girt, New Jersey.

## LIKED EDITORIAL

Dear Sir:

The writer has enjoyed reading the *Florida Wildlife* magazine since its first publication and in the past has gotten a lot of real information. You are to be congratulated on the fine magazine that is now being published by the Game Commission.

The last article by our good governor, Fuller Warren, is a fine article and I wish every one interested in fishing and hunting could read it.

PETER G. WARD  
Jacksonville.

## INTRIGUED

Dear Sir:

I have received the January and February issues of *Florida Wildlife*, and to say that I am intrigued is putting it very lightly.

I am looking forward to another visit to Florida soon, egged on by your fine magazine.

BILL STAHL  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

## The Cover

Cypress, sunshine and  
Spanish moss at a bend  
of the Wakulla River.—  
By Charles H. Anderson.

Vol. 2, No. 11

Florida  
**WILDLIFE**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME  
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

April, 1949

For the  
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,  
of Our Game and Fish

★

Published monthly by the  
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION  
Tallahassee, Florida

★

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# Florida's Stricken Waters!

by  
**Bill Weeks**  
and  
**Howard R. Bissland**

***This startling article  
reveals the water hyacinth  
for what it is -- a sweeping  
scourge that is costing  
Florida \$10,000,000 a year***

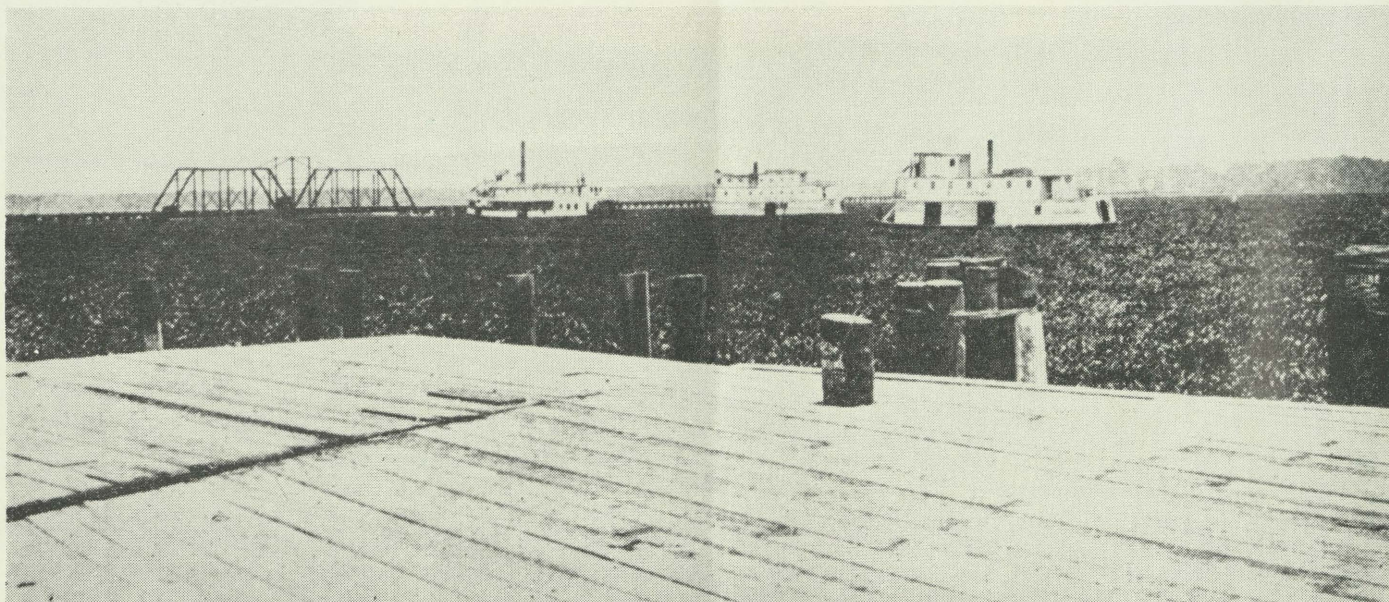
## Part 1

FLORIDA is a land of stricken waters. Some are merely tinged with sickness; some are dying; others already are dead, strangled by a garrot of tender leaves and flowers. Our waters are our pride and joy—our bread and butter; yet virtually all lie unattended while a green and growing cancer gnaws at their vitals. In six decades we have allowed a handful of water hyacinth seeds to germinate into a creeping threat to every fresh water lake and stream in the state. It sounds frightening—and it is!

The State of Florida has nearly 2,500,000 acres of potentially fishable fresh water—more than any other state in the union.

(Co-author Howard R. Bissland is a biologist for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, and has done considerable hyacinth control work on small lakes. The bulk of material contained in this article, however, was dug from the files of concerned state and federal agencies.—Ed.)





**This picture, reproduced from an old tin-type, shows the St. Johns clogged with hyacinths in 1896. They had spread to this extent in less than 10 years after their introduction in Florida.**

Because of a natural fertility and the tourist dollar our lakes and streams have one of the greatest annual cash yields in the country. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service figures their annual per acre return in fish and waterfowl at \$21.27—nearly double the estimate for any other southern state.

Today more than 250,000 of these valuable acres have been damaged or ruined by water hyacinths. Out of every 100 acres of water in Florida, 2½ acres are seriously infested with hyacinths; for every acre actually infested three more are blocked off and rendered useless for any practical purpose. In other words as it stands now, a harmless looking plant with

purple blooms is claiming 10 percent of the inland water of Florida. At the present rate of spread, the toll will be doubled inside another decade.

For years hyacinths have been regarded as purely local infections, except in navigable streams where commerce was affected. The city or community dogged by the virus complained about its affliction; occasionally when the pain became too severe it picked ineptly at its sores until at least part of the scabs had been torn away. The pain was local and treatment was sporadic. The general public has never had more than a hazy idea of the extent of water hyacinths in Florida. Until recently

there were no figures and very few estimates on the total area of infestation. Even now these figures are known only to a handful of U. S. Engineers and the authors.

**A**CTUALLY Florida contains a total of 62,991 acres of hyacinth-choked waters. The weeds have inched their way into 55 of our 67 counties, and have spread their tenacles into 530 of our 1,500 creeks and rivers. They thrive in concentrations ranging from tiny, picturesque garlands to solid, matted blankets shrouding entire lakes. The U. S. Engineers have separated the concentrations into four classifications—sparse, moderate, dense and very dense.

**Though this lake is only moderately infested, fishing has already been reduced to nothing.**





Sparse is the label tacked to any weed-affected area that can claim at least 50 percent open water. If the area has less than 50 percent open water, but is still fairly accessible it is classified as moderate. Dense is any area where only splotches of open water are visible, and very dense means a solid impenetrable mass of hyacinths.

Significantly, very few acres of molested waters are classified as sparse. Once the pestilence gains a foothold it is off to the races. Dr. William T. Penfound of Tulane University found that under optimum conditions water hyacinths *would double their number on an average of once every 12.5 days*. He estimated that in one good eight-month growing season 10 plants could multiply into enough hyacinths to completely cover an acre of water.

Of the total acreage of plagued water, 21,934 are classed as moderate, 22,801 as dense and 14,289 as very dense. Nearly 27,000 acres of the total can be traversed by boat fairly easily; on 10,808 acres the going is difficult, and 25,314 acres are totally impenetrable. It is this last category that effectively isolates an estimated 200,000 acres of fishable water not directly affected by the weeds.

The leafy pest is no respecter of waterways. It paralyzes beautiful clear-running streams as completely and hopelessly as it does mud-clogged drainage ditches. The army engineers say 25,079 acres of lakes and ponds are wrapped in a suffocating coat of hyacinths; almost the same area is covered in our non-navigable natural streams. Despite federal control efforts, our navigable streams still have their share of weed trouble. The engineers figure that slightly more than 7,000 acres of such waterway is besieged by hyacinths.

All these figures come out of a two-year aerial survey by the U. S. Army Engineers. They are not rough estimates or guesses, but the result of cold computations made from aerial maps charted and pin-pointed by low-flying observers who covered every inch of the state. The figures have never before been made public, but will soon be transmitted to the Congressional Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

**A** YEAR before the Engineers began their survey Congress asked the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give some study to the game and fish angle of Florida's hyacinth problem and report its findings. In February, 1947, the report was submitted. In it the federal service estimated that hyacinths were costing the state more than \$5,000,000 a year in hunting and fishing business alone.

This report was based on conditions four years ago, when fishing pressure was less

(Continued Page 15)

## DISTRIBUTION OF WATER HYACINTH BY COUNTIES IN ACRES

	ACCESSIBILITY			CONCENTRATION				WATERWAY DISTRIBUTION				TOTAL
	Easy	Diffi- cult	Inac- cessible	Sparse	Mod- erate	Dense	Very Dense	Navi- gable Streams	Non-nav- igable Streams	Drain- age Ditches	Lakes Ponds	
Alachua.....	262	635	899	540	46	1,069	141	1	8	108	1,671	1,796
Baker.....												
Bay.....					2						2	2
Bradford.....	2				36	18	192		164	80	59	303
Brevard.....	246	53	4	57	96	390	340		48	786		834
Broward.....	684		150	8								
Calhoun.....												
Charlotte.....	36		148	5	49	125	5		27	20	137	184
Citrus.....	258	1,866			982	1,142		344			1,780	2,124
Clay.....	121	32	45		117	71	10	121	77			198
Collier.....	219	222	2	3	8	36	396				443	443
Columbia.....		795	14	38	76	616	79	10			799	809
Dade.....	121			2	13	42	64			116	5	121
De Soto.....	341	401	291		86	67	880		1,032	1		1,033
Dixie.....	50	19	142	6	192	13		203	6		2	211
Duval.....	245	8		8	74	127	44	237	8		8	253
Escambia.....												
Flagler.....	115	43	20		165	13		33	5	15	125	178
Franklin.....		25		1		24			25			25
Gadsden.....	290	35			325						225	325
Gilchrist.....			20		20			1	20			20
Glades.....	373	10	1,271	630	139	762	123		509	482	663	1,654
Gulf.....		2		2					2			2
Hamilton.....		6				6					6	6
Hardee.....	60	6	411	67	11	335	64		136	6	335	477
Hendry.....	73		98	3	64	92	12			158	13	171
Hernando.....	12	284	36		169	163		178			154	332
Highlands.....	1,946	1,182	3,841	1	1,969	2,801	2,198		6,645	114	210	6,969
Hillsborough.....	877	59	810	62	109	1,162	413	406	620	67	653	1,746
Holmes.....												
Indian River.....	115		2	1	3	44	69	73	40	4		117
Jackson.....												
Jefferson.....		4			4						4	4
Lafayette.....												
Lake.....	488	88	1,084	79	1,222	359		338	707		615	1,660
Lee.....	43			6	1	15	21		14	29		43
Leon.....	73	87		48	112				23		137	160
Levy.....	681	39	285	634	339	32		703	47		255	1,005
Liberty.....												
Madison.....		7		1	4	1	1		4		3	7
Manatee.....	547		36	21	370	162	30		360	14	209	583
Marion.....	233	131		17	172	114	61	3	75	83	203	364
Martin.....	106		1	6	13	76	12	10	2	52	43	107
Monroe.....												
Nassau.....	88	13	20	10	36	37	38	101	19		1	121
Okaloosa.....												
Okeechobee.....	1,491	1,399	4,417		5,338	1,804	165		6,467	803	37	7,307
Orange.....	1,456	140	153	142	159	261	1,187		286	26	1,437	1,749
Osceola.....	199	10	1,723	99	500	225	1,188		1,353	42	537	1,932
Palm Beach.....	2,842	470	2,566	1,351	1,746	2,484	297		37	2,561	3,280	5,878
Pasco.....	690	286	1,532	7	207	2,051	243		1,818		690	2,508
Pinellas.....	12	92		1	1	92	10		1		103	104
Polk.....	5,828	631	3,888	52	1,745	3,296	5,254		2,937	127	7,283	10,347
Putnam.....	1,177	328	140	31	993	621		1,186	133	23	303	1,645
St. Johns.....	103	37	28	12	10	134	12	126	32	8	2	168
St. Lucie.....	407		84	3	34	61	433		269	262		531
Santa Rosa.....												
Sarasota.....	534		75	7	64	520	18		352	14	243	609
Seminole.....	695	7	251	6	52	522	366	106	348		499	953
Sumter.....	783	981			1,764			1,715		24	25	1,764
Suwannee.....		28			15	13					28	28
Taylor.....			6		2	4			1		5	6
Union.....												
Volusia.....	1,906	348	821		2,273	799		837	411	88	1,739	3,075
Wakulla.....												
Walton.....												
Washington.....												
	26,568	10,809	25,314	3,967	21,934	22,801	14,289	6,731	25,068	6,113	25,079	62,991

This table was prepared by the U. S. Army Engineers from a two-year aerial survey. This is the first time the actual acreages of hyacinths in Florida has been made public.





Norton Webster, left, "the daddy of Florida shad fishing," has converted his pal, H. S. Caywood.

# SILVER LIGHTNING!

by Bill Snyder

Down DeLand way  
they've discovered a  
new kind of lightning—  
the kind that strikes the  
end of a hook.

**M**ANY YEARS ago Ben Franklin coaxed a bolt of lightning out of the sky and his experiment developed into light, heat and power for the world. Seven years ago Norton Webster used a flyrod and plastic minnow to coax a bolt of greased lightning out of the St. Johns river near Deland—and his experiment stands to supply Florida with its newest and most exciting sports fishing!

You see, Webster's "belt of greased lightning" in reality was a six and a half pound shad—the first ever captured in a flyrod and artificial bait routine here in Florida. Up until that eventful moment it was conceded that shad could only be caught in the tight meshes of a commercial fisherman's net.

It is quite possible that Ben Franklin snared his first bolt of lightning

quite by accident, but if so Ben cleverly neglected to let his hair down. On the other hand, Webster candidly admits that his first shad-catching experience was the direct result of nothing more or less than pure luck.

Disregarding how or why the first shad was attracted to Webster's fishing gear, the fact still remains that the quiet-spoken visitor from New York state today is credited with being the "daddy" of a new sport that embodies all the excitement and sweat of fighting a hundred pound tarpon or landing a 14-pound big-mouth on a cracker pole.

Although shad fishing is still in the development stage, it is the toast of the town in Deland morning, noon and night. The new sport has proved so fascinating that bankers, bakers and blacksmiths in the territory have

traded their bass fishing gear for flyrods and plastic lines and spend their leisure time angling for fightin' shad up and down a five-mile stretch of the historic St. Johns leading from Blue Springs. Shad fishing, in a comparatively short time, has proven as contagious as the measles. The "germ" already has resulted in scores of visitors from the north extending their vacation in Deland just to get "another crack at the shad." Even the Deland Chamber of Commerce has wised up to the shad's potentialities to the extent that a program is being mapped out to publicize the new sport throughout the north in an effort to attract record crowds of winter sportsmen to the Volusia county seat.

Webster's "discovery" came about purely accidentally in the spring of 1942—the day before his scheduled



departure for his home in New York—while he was trolling for bass. In order to keep his line from snagging the river bottom, he twitched his flyrod several times—and then it happened! He hooked his first “bolt of greased lightning.”

A dozen times the fish shook his head and jumped clear of the water—a dozen times Webster’s heart skipped a beat. It was a full 15 minutes before the fisherman had his prize alongside the row boat—and then he learned—the fight had really just begun.

Like a race horse, the fish darted beneath the boat—he circled the craft time and again—he shook his head! He was still fightin’ mad when Webster boated him with a landing net.

Wiping perspiration from his brow, the sportsman found he was unable to identify his catch.

“I don’t know what kind of fish you are,” he mumbled, “but, pound for pound, you can lick any bass in Florida.”

Later, fishermen standing on the boat dock identified Webster’s catch as being a shad.

But he didn’t reveal his secret.

“Yeh,” he told the bystanders, “a commercial netter gave him to me.”

The following day Webster left for his home in New York convinced that his strange catch was strictly a sorny “flake.”

Determined to either prove or disprove his theory, Webster started experimenting again with his five-ounce flyrod and plastic minnow as soon as he’d returned to Deland the following season.

During that season of 1943 he landed a total of nine shad.

But he still remained unconvinced.

“It’s simply a doggone happen-so,” he told himself.

During 1947, he continued his experiments and wound up with a total of 17.

Then he started to tell the world that shad can be caught with a flyrod and artificial bait—if you know how. However, selling the new idea proved even more difficult than actually catching the fish. Many sportsmen listened, smiled knowingly, patted him on the back, and walked away—unconvinced.

One fisherman even suggested that Webster say out of the hot sun.

“It’ll get you,” he advised. “Better stay at home and rest up for a day or two.”

Undaunted, he continued his “missionary” work until it started to take root. Today, seasoned sportsmen affectionately refer to him as “daddy of shad fishing in Florida.” For his accomplishment, the Deland Junior Chamber of Commerce made him an honorary life member, letters from admiring sportsmen, magazine editors and sports writers, seeking more information on the new sport, are dropped into his mail box daily.

Just last month members of the Volusia County Sportsmen’s Asso-

ciation staged the First Annual Silver Shad Tournament at Blue Springs—an event that attracted hundreds of eager sportsmen. Scores of fighting shad were boated during the event and first prize was awarded to a Kentucky state senator for his two-hour catch of 14. Already plans are going forward for making next year’s tournament bigger and better, so it appears that Webster’s new-found sport has taken root—but definitely!

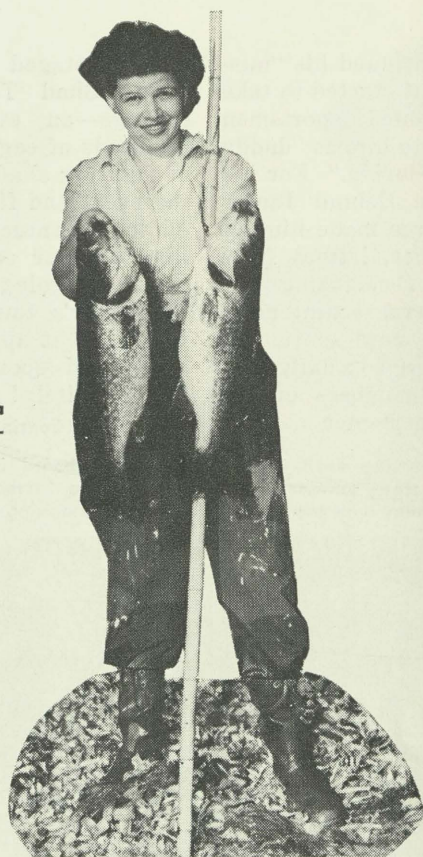
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**A shad never stops battling until after he’s hoisted aboard in a landing net. H. S. Caywood, a Kentucky state senator, is shown boating a “streak of greased lightning” during a St. Johns river trip. John J. Hollman is manning the landing net.**





Gladys accounted for a pair of five-pound battling beauties.



## CINCH BAIT

### *for Bass*

Getting the squirming eels into the can is half the bait problem.

I DON'T know exactly how the conversation started that pushed me into writing this story! First of all, I'm inclined to believe that I have a one-track mind. No matter how interesting a discussion may be or how hard I try to keep it from getting around to fishing—a subject that's shop talk as far as I'm concerned—there's bound to be someone in the group who'll automatically turn the tide that winds up with a stringer full of fish tales. And, brother, I've listened to some of the best.

Maybe, before I wind up to tell this fish story, I'd better explain that although it's a tale of some colossal fishing, it is primarily a yarn about a well distributed but seldom used bait that is common to most of Florida's fresh waters. It's a bait that attracts big bass to your hook like a fisherman attracts gnats on a calm afternoon.

As I recall it, this yarn started while I was enjoying a rare roast beef dinner at the home of Kent and Jewelle Williams at Brooksville—two of the swellest sportsmen I have met in many a mile of fishing.

Two other swell sportsmen, Ed Wernickie and his wife, Gladys, had been invited to the beef dinner. Sometimes a fellow likes to talk about something besides fishing, and that was exactly how I felt while I was downing big portions of rare beef and all the trimmings. Everything was going along swell. We fellows were talking "man talk" and the





**It took a couple of gal fishermen from Her-  
nando County to show the author a new, sure-  
fire insurance for successful bass fishing.**

women were chattering about ten thousand other things. Then, all of a sudden it happened and my rare roast beef suddenly turned to fish!

Now that I look back on it, it was an unimportant question that turned the tide. Gladys casually inquired about my fishing luck on a trip I'd made the day before up in the backwater. I reported bad luck and ventured a guess that maybe I'd used the wrong kind of bait. That's where I put my foot into it!

Gladys came right back at me and inquired if I'd ever used eels for bass bait. I admitted that I'd never heard of catching bass with eel, but went on to describe cut eel as an excellent catfish lure.

"Oh, I don't mean cut bait," she came back at me. "I mean live ones, the kind a bass can't resist."

Then I bragged that in my time I'd used about every type, size and

have been using for bait aren't eels," said Kent. Then he added that the theories he quoted had been written by a lot of qualified biologists.

So Jewelle piped up.

"I don't care what you call 'em," she declared, "all I know is that they're the best bait for catching big bass."

That statement settled it. The next thing I knew, I was booked to join the two couples on an eel-bait bass fishing party the following afternoon.

"We'll catch the eels and then I'll guarantee that all the bass we catch will weigh at least five pounds—and our stringer will average better than six," Kent bragged.

That statement made me gasp for breath. It was what I termed "calling your shot" before a fishing trip had even started and to me that added up to—impossible.

While I undressed for bed that night, I determined to investigate the eel business the following day before the fishing trip ever started. To me, it was a fisherman's dream—no less!

Bright and early the next morning I started making the rounds of fishing camps in my one-man "eel census."

I visited many a camp that morning but at none of them could I find a single eel—nothing but enthusiasm. They were too hard to catch, one dealer told me. The price was too high for the average fisherman, I learned at another bait house. But I didn't give up my search and finally I was rewarded for my perseverance.

A big roadside sign near a farm house screamed at me. EELS FOR SALE, it said.

Later, I gasped for breath when I talked with the owner.

"Two bucks a dozen," he told me, "but you can't buy more'n a dozen. You see a fellow up at Inverness buys about all I can catch."

The eel market took a jump before I reached the next bait house less

(Continued Page 20)

color of bait, but admitted that I'd never heard of anyone using live eels and expecting to hook a wily bass.

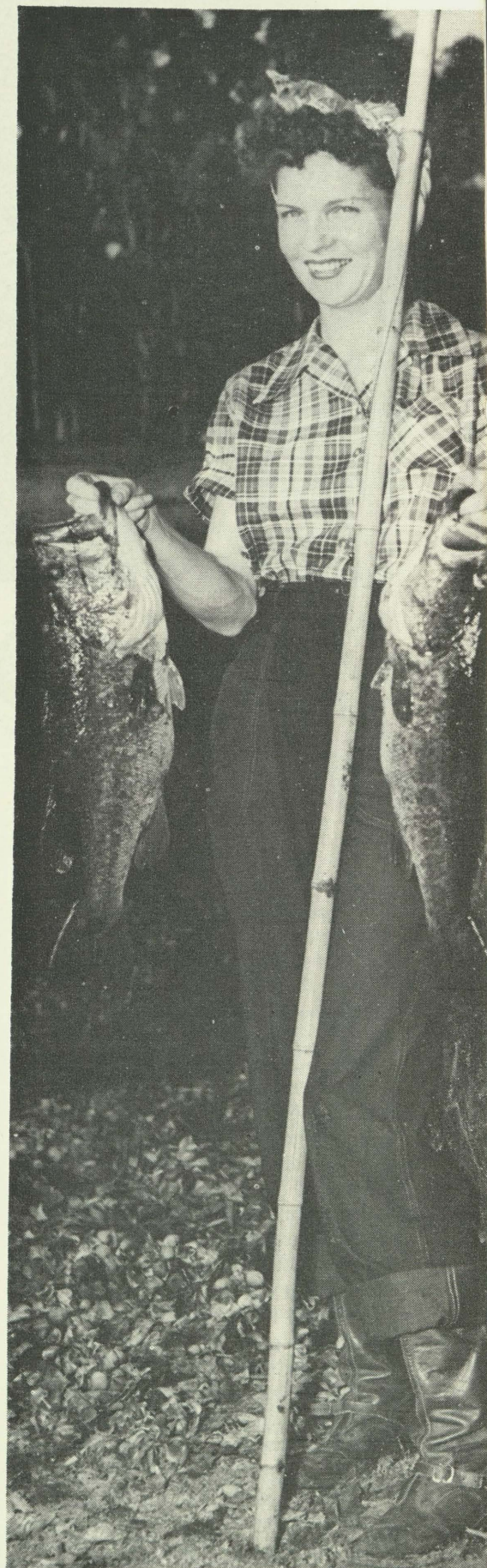
Gladys looked at me kind of disgusted and, by the silent treatment, left me hanging in the air. But Ed rescued me. He explained that his wife wasn't referring to the lengthy eels that are many times caught on a hook, but instead had meant much smaller ones, running from four to seven to eight inches.

"The biggest we ever shook out was about eight inches—I don't know if they're babies or maybe that's as big as they grow," Ed explained.

I didn't know what he meant by "shook," so I just kept my mouth shut.

Then Kent joined the conversation. He gave a regular lecture about eels the world over returning to the Sargasso sea to spawn and the young not returning until they were big enough to care for themselves.

"Either all the stories and theories I have read and listened to are just so much bilge or these things we



Jewelle beams over the Williams' catch. Kent landed the six-pounder.





by  
Herb Mosher

**F**ISH SAUSAGE might be the way for Florida to turn its rough fish surplus into cash on hand. It may convert the garfish, the uncounted tons of fresh water suckers, and the overpopulations of various fresh water fishes which now threaten good fishing in many lakes into a thriving industry.

But who ever heard of fish sausage! Well, I hadn't for one, and no one else I could find ever had either. Beyond any doubt the Memphis fish dealer was kidding me, talking about "fish sausage" in that casual way. "It's a very popular item," he said.

A good many weeks later I was hundreds of miles north of Memphis, in the Mississippi Valley country, and visited the plant where fish sausages were manufactured. The foreman was most enlightening. "Fish sausage," he explained, "is strictly a high-class product, as I will show you. Let me explain the manufacturing process."

Fish sausage, I learned is a somewhat more complicated business than I had first thought. First, the fish, no matter how small, are scaled and gutted, and carefully washed. Then they are cooked under heavy pressure, which softens the bones. After that, the cooked fish is ground carefully, bones and all, and stuffed into sausage casings of various sizes, shapes and kinds. The product is then smoked and put up in various shapes to please the trade—some large, some small, some straight and some curved.

The flavor, I discovered, is not greatly different from the flavor of ham. Or perhaps it is closer to smoked sailfish.

"Where do you sell this fish sausage?" I asked.

"All over the country. New York is an especially good market. Some of it goes to the Pacific Coast. Chicago takes all it can get. We believe no other firm manufactures the sausage commercially."

"What do you make this fish sausage from; what kinds of fish?"

"Any fish will do," he replied. "In general, the idea is to use fish

which have the lowest sales value at the moment. We use small fish, fish too small to sell on the market, for instance. Catfish are worth too much money to make into sausage. Gars have been used successfully. They have a fine flavor. The carp is common in the Mississippi Valley country and small carp go great in fish sausage manufacture. I'd say that all fish will do but the idea is to use those which do not find a ready sale, or which are too small to use except in sausage."

I found that the smoked fish delicacy often sells for a price equal to that of fine ham. Yet the fish sausage people admitted they "like to make this fish sausage out of fish which bring 5c a pound, or less, on the market."

The subject of Florida's over-supply of rough fish came up during the discussion. Enough fish sausage I said, to feed all of Europe! The fish sausage manufacturer cooled off on this. As nearly as I could determine, he fears competition in the business. But there is no monopoly, no patent on fish sausage.

The fish sausage business could be Florida's meat.



## SILVER LIGHTNING

(Continued from Page 7)

So far his record day's catch is chalked up at 34. Strangely, the largest he ever landed—a six and a half pounder—was the one he caught the day back in 1942 when he made his discovery.

Since the time Webster made his amazing "discovery" he has observed shad and their habits with much the same interest as a mother watches over her sick child—and his watchfulness has paid off good dividends. For instance, he's convinced that shad arrive in the Deland vicinity in four separate runs annually. The first run, he'll tell you, arrives around November 10. The fish in this first contingent are larger than those in succeeding runs. When the fish leave, they head south toward an unknown destination. Usually there is a lapse of around three weeks between the departure of one school and the arrival of the next. The last school remains until approximately May 15 and then disappears as mysteriously as it arrived. After that there's nothing to do but hang up your shad gear and wait patiently for another year.

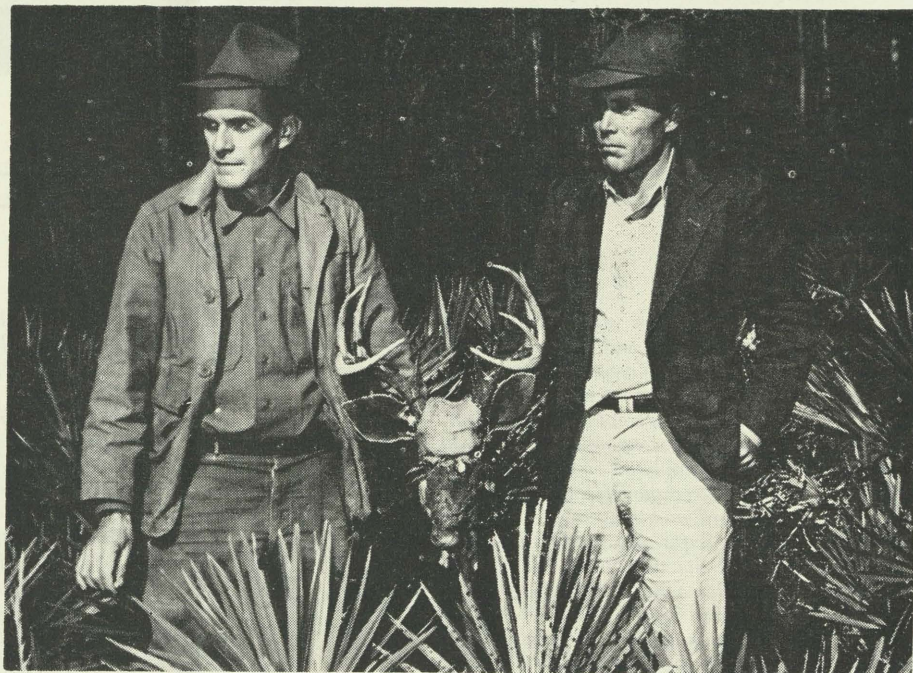
In the event that you already are planning your first shad fishing trip it is only natural that you'll want to listen to Webster's sage advice which is as important for fishing success as Hoyle's is to card playing.

For real excitement, and success too, he recommends the use of a five or six ounce flyrod. Deep fishing is necessary, he's found, and this is best accomplished by using a plastic line, since it is smooth as glass, has little water resistance, and normally runs deep. A No. 1 silver spoon, he declares, is your best bait bet. Weather has no apparent effect on shad. When they're running they'll hit your line regardless of wind direction, time of day, or temperature.

However a recent poll of scores of converted shad fishermen in the Deland area disclosed that many of them are using types of fishing gear that vary considerably from the kind prescribed by Webster. What's more, most of them reported excellent results despite the fact that they weren't following Webster's flyrod and plastic line routine.

A couple of sportsmen are convinced that light weight Calcutta

(Continued Page 19)



Wildlife Officers Ross Summers (left) and Walter Larkin pose with "Old Bill"

## Night-hunter Booby-trap

by JACK HARPER

**N**APOLEON had his Waterloo, Lee his Gettysburg—now Florida night hunters have "Old Bill."

"Old Bill" is a cypress knee, two ear flaps, a pair of eyes and a set of antlers, all wrapped together in a burlap bag. He is proving to illegal night hunters that two eyes that shine under a set of antlers doesn't necessarily mean it's a deer, but more likely a dummy deer trap.

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission thinks enough of "Old Bill" that they are rigging up a sizeable herd of his counterparts and using them throughout Florida to trap unwary afterdark nimrods.

It all started with two wildlife officers from Liberty County who decided to do something about the deer killed illegally in their territory every year. Long pestered with night hunters, Officers Walter Larkin and Ross Summers conceived the idea of rigging up a dummy deer that would look realistic enough to fool a hunter at night.

They knew that when a light is flashed in a deer's eyes, it blinds it and the animal stands motionless, giving the marksman an easy target. So, they didn't need a moving dummy. That made their job simple.

The pair took an old cypress knee, luminous discs. To this they attached the leather ears and the antlers. They wrapped the whole works in burlap bagging. Summers jokingly named the dummy "Old Bill."

"Old Bill" did the job the first night out. Just before midnight two hunters spotted the dummy's eyes

glittering in their car lights. They fired and "Old Bill" was pulled down. The hunters ran to the spot to pick up their prize. Then out stepped Larkin and Summers to make the arrests on charges of "being in the woods at night with light and gun for the obvious purpose of taking game."

Their midnight coup, besides throwing the fear of God into night hunters of their district, has caused a minor revolution in the game commission's law enforcement methods. All Conservation Districts are now meticulously laying a net work of dummy deer traps for the greedy night killers.

The game commission estimates around 1,500 deer are killed by night hunters in Florida every year. The legal deer kill is between 6,000 and 7,000 annually.

If the plan works as well throughout the state as it has in Liberty County, the illegal deer kill is expected to drop appreciably. A friend of the two wildlife officers, employed in the Liberty County court house, recently observed:

"It doesn't pay to break a game law around here. Those boys are sure to catch you."

Elated over their first "invention," Larkin and Summers are now working on a stuffed dummy turkey that will pick up corn.

Meanwhile, the game commission is convinced that, as a result of their work, night hunters very likely will find their target is "Old Bill"—with strings attached.



# In Memoriam



It was with profound regret that we learned of the sudden death of Mr. Ben C. Morgan, in Washington last week.

In the comparatively short time that he had been Director of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Mr. Morgan had about completed a thorough and badly needed reorganization of the Commission structure and had instituted many modern methods for the protection and preservation of the wildlife of the State of Florida.

To have been stricken while in the performance of his duties was typical of the character of his service to the State and it is most regrettable that he could not have lived to reap some of the fruits of his work. He will be missed not only by the Commission but by all organizations such as ours, who have applauded his efforts.

CALOOSA HATCHEE  
CONSERVATION CLUB



In behalf of the Lake Apopka Sportsman Association, I wish to partly express our deep regret at the passing of Ben Morgan, Director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

He was an enthusiastic, capable and tireless worker for conservation in all its many phases, and may his successor hold as high, the torch of leadership, which he unwillingly lowered.

It is our duty, and privilege, as Sportsmen, to lend our support in every possible way, for the fight has just begun.

LAKE APOPKA  
SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION



The Gulf Beaches Conservation Club shares with all other conservation clubs the sense of great loss in the untimely death of the Hon. Ben C. Morgan while carrying on the work to which we are all devoted.

Each of our members realizes that he has lost a good friend, and that Florida conservation has lost a tireless and unswerving champion.

His record in the cause to which we are all pledged will be a constant inspiration to all of us and a monument to his devotion and loyalty in furthering that cause.

GULF BEACHES  
CONSERVATION CLUB



The members of the Volusia Wildlife Association were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Ben C. Morgan.

We know that we have lost a great leader and a real friend of the wildlife interests in Florida. His efforts in the field of conservation were outstanding. The results of his vision, shrewd common sense, and thorough knowledge of his field are very much in evidence and are bound to continue in the future unless there is a reversal in his policies.

We all valued Mr. Morgan as a friend who had a real personal interest in our common problems. His passing is a great blow to the sportsmen of Florida and it behooves all of us to see to it that his ideas and plans are carried out and given a fair trial in the future.

VOLUSIA WILD  
LIFE ASSOCIATION



The passing of Ben Morgan is a distinct shock as well as a great loss to the sportsmen of our State.

In the two years that he served as head of the Florida game commission, Morgan completely reorganized the conservation setup, and his untimely passing has cut short a great ambition that he cherished, to make Florida the greatest State in the Union, from a standpoint of the devotee's of the Rod & Gun.

Aside from being very efficient, and conservation minded he was a great lover of the sport.

"May the great God of abstract justice take his spirit to thine own happy hunting grounds where camp fires burn forever to thy glory."

EUREKA ROD & GUN CLUB



Through the untimely passing of Ben C. Morgan, Director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the outdoor sportsmen of the state have lost an ardent friend and champion of conservation. Under his direction, outstanding progress has been made in the program of wildlife management.

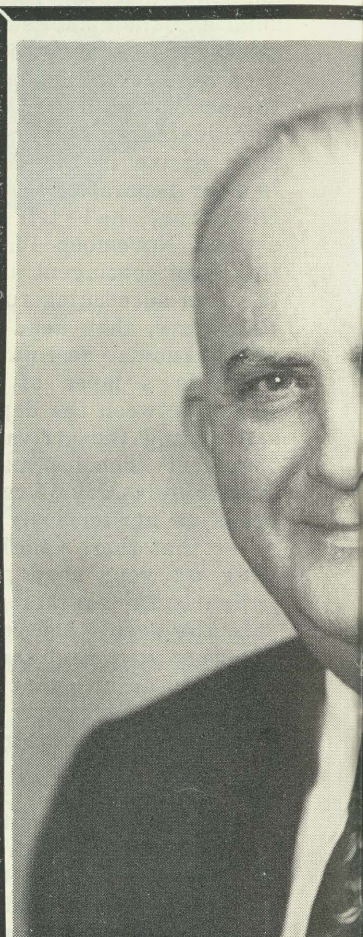
Our sincere sympathy is extended to his bereaved family.

"O Master, let me walk with Thee . . ."

"Take my life, and let it be . . ."

"Lord, speak to me, that I may speak . . ."

LEVY COUNTY WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION CLUB

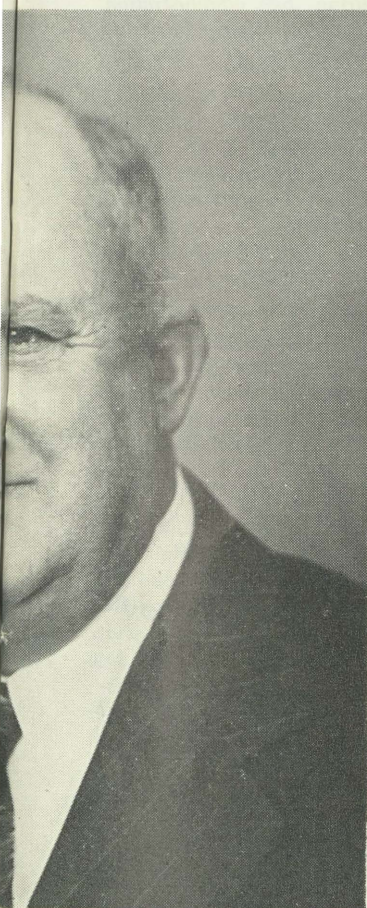


BEN C. Morgan  
... Good

During the two years Mr. Morgan was Director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission he paid several visits to our club. Our members were greatly impressed with his sincere interest in our local problems as well as those of our State, and the entire organization held him in high esteem and realized that his untimely passing will mean a setback to the forward progress of a better hunting and fishing as well as a better understanding between



# morian



MORGAN  
at to you, Sir

sportsmen and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. ...However, we feel that during the two years Mr. Morgan was in charge, that he has laid the foundation for future developments and it is our hope that his associates in Tallahassee will carry on the work successfully so that it may be a lasting tribute to the efforts of Mr. Morgan.

MANATEE COUNTY FISH  
& GAME ASSOCIATION



Good night to you, Sir. A quiet, restful sleep and a glad awakening among those thousands of sportsmen who have admired you for your high courage and loved you for your great heartedness.

The empty place your going has left against the Florida sky will not be filled again in our time—if ever. The torch you have applied to the tender of good sportsmanship afield and straightforward dealing will, however, burn ever brighter as the years pass. Your love of fairness and deep regard for the importance of your Country's natural resources; your splendid courage and great idealisms will chart a sure course for sports loving friends who will not forget your bright example of unselfish devotion to the cause you served.

Your task was one of infinite proportions—your acceptance of the responsibility ready and courageous. You accomplished a laborious duty with a dignity born of natural nobility; you earned from the State and the Nation you loved and grandly served, the final and finest award of all a heart dictated and softly spoken "well done."

We wish you greener, broader fields, more beautiful forests; swifter and more beautiful streams through all eternity.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

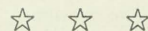


It is with a feeling of a great sense of loss that we learned of the untimely death of the Honorable Ben C. Morgan, Commissioner of the Florida Fresh Water Game and Fish Commission, our friend and the friend of every sportsman in Florida.

His untiring efforts in the field of conservation and propagation of Florida wild life and fish will long be remembered by his sportsmen friends everywhere. His work as a director has paved the way for Florida to become the mecca of hunting and fishing for all people of the United States.

His vision and keen understanding, shown by his plan of the future, shows the character of this man. He will be greatly missed from our midst. We join with the rest of the sportsmen in offering our sympathy to his family and his many, many friends.

SAN ANTONIO  
BIG CYPRESS CLUB



Members of the East Hillsborough County Fish and Game Club join with sportsmen all over the state of Florida to pay tribute to the memory of the Hon. Ben C. Morgan.

Many of us knew Ben Morgan personally; others of us knew him only through his good work as director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. No matter what our acquaintance, all of us feel a deep sense of personal loss at his passing.

We feel that the biennial report of the commission, issued to former Gov. Caldwell on Dec. 31, 1948, is, indeed, testimony to the progress of the commission since Mr. Morgan took over the directorship in March, 1947.

Thus, in tribute to Ben C. Morgan, we, the members of the East Hillsborough County Fish and Game Club, pledge ourselves to strive to carry out the principles of conservation and propagation of Florida's wildlife as initiated by him, to the best of our ability.

May the abundance of game in our fields and fish in our lakes and rivers provide the final tribute to his memory.

EAST HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
FISH AND GAME CLUB



In the passing of Ben Morgan, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the State of Florida has lost an able Administrator, always loyal to his trust, even under difficult and trying circumstances.

Florida sportsmen and proponents of wildlife conservation throughout the country have benefited by his counsel and will long remember his enthusiastic, consistent and courageous leadership and many timely contributions to wildlife management.

PENSACOLA ANGLERS &  
HUNTERS CLUB, INC.



The news announcing the death of Hon. Ben C. Morgan was a shock to our entire membership.

Though his time in office as Director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has been short, we felt that his efforts were expended for the betterment of Florida wildlife and the state's many natural resources.

ECONLOCKHATCHEE HUNT CLUB  
(Continued on Next Page)





The St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club has gone into full mourning for Director Ben C. Morgan, beloved Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission leader, who was stricken so suddenly.

Wherever sportsmen meet, groups are silently talking over the tragic and sudden end of what the club members believe to be the greatest force for conservation, Florida has ever had in the commission.

A special meeting will be set aside for talks from Rod and Gun Club members recalling the wonderful ideas and incidents in the life of Ben Morgan. The members, while admitting he was just mortal like the rest of us, nevertheless, apparently created such miracles in management and direction, that often the great man was referred to as "Houdini Morgan" the man who could do more with his hands chained than many others might do with strong free arms.

ST. PETERSBURG ROD  
AND GUN CLUB



The De Soto Conservation Club deeply regrets the death of the Honorable Ben C. Morgan and joins the host of Florida sportsmen in mourning the loss of this tireless official. We believe that the great improvement in the management of fish and game, through better enforcement of laws and more intelligent restocking efforts, has been more definitely noticeable during his administration.

We are fully aware that he will be hard to replace, and we pledge our full support and cooperation to his successor carrying on Mr. Morgan's work.

DESOTO COUNTY  
CONSERVATION CLUB



This Club regrets with deep sympathy the loss of Hon. Ben C. Morgan, Director of the Fresh Water Fish & Game Commission of our State.

We feel that all sporting interests and state-wide conservation interests have lost a very good friend and a Director of great capacity and intelligence.

We also believe that his work will not have been in vain, however, and that his policies and plans for the State of Florida will go forward as a tribute to his work.

We extend to his family and friends our great sympathy.

WILDLIFE LEAGUE OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY



Florida was fortunate in having Ben C. Morgan as Director of the Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission for the past two years and we feel that the organization he has created will carry on the great work of conservation and protection to fresh water fish and game in Florida as a memorial to Ben C. Morgan who the Lord saw fit to call from the midst of his work.

DAYTONA BEACH  
WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



WHEREAS, Ben C. Morgan was well known and respected for his faithful and altruistic service to the sportsmen of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, he has distinguished himself as one of the leaders in game conservation in the South and in the United States, and has occupied responsible positions of trust, respect and confidence; and

WHEREAS, he was known widely for his outstanding devotion, both to church and to family, and we share with his family the loss which they have been called upon to bear; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Ben C. Morgan is not only a distinct loss to the sportsmen of the State of Florida collectively, but individually to each of us; and whereas his loss will be felt in the community from which he came and throughout the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALACHULA COUNTY SPORTSMENS ASSOCIATION, that we do here record our respect and admiration for his unwavering devotion to duty, his state and country and to his family.

And be it further resolved that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the family and that a copy shall be placed in the minutes of this association as a simple expression of the esteem in which we held our departed brother and sportsman, Ben C. Morgan.

ALACHUA COUNTY  
SPORTSMENS ASSOCIATION



The news of the death of Director Ben C. Morgan, of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, came as a great shock. It seems almost incredible that a man of his stature and usefulness should be taken away just at the time when his wonderful work is beginning to show excellent results in a big way.

Ben was a fine man and a fine executive—one whose memory will linger long with those who knew and associated with him.

It is my belief that Ben was a friend to all forward movements in the conservation of game and fresh water fish, not only in Florida but throughout the nation.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL  
DADE COUNTY



There is indeed no "indispensible man" but Ben C. Morgan approached that category about as nearly as a man could. The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has in recent years "come out in front" as one of the most progressive and noteworthy agencies of State government. Ben C. Morgan, its director, played no small part in attaining this goal. His knowledge, applied with wisdom, fairness, and full consideration of all interests made for a highly efficient Game Department. Florida may well be proud. May they carry on in the spirit of our dear friend Ben Morgan.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY  
ROD AND GUN CLUB



WHEREAS, in the recent, sudden and unexpected death of BEN C. MORGAN this State has lost one of its most distinguished and highly respected citizens;

WHEREAS, during the period of less than three years that he was Director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission the greatest progress in the history of the conservation of our fresh water fish and game has been made;

WHEREAS, during his administration BEN C. MORGAN gave unsparringly of his time, enthusiasm and devotion to the up-building of our wildlife;

WHEREAS, before his life's work was ended under his leadership the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has established an organization and policies which we believe will carry on the great work that is now bearing good fruit;

WHEREAS, his contribution to the future of our wildlife will always be a cherished memory;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the SEMINOLE COUNTY SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION that in the death of Ben C. Morgan this State has lost one of its most valuable citizens and the conservationist of this State one of its most valued friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a page of the minutes of this association be dedicated to the memory of BEN C. MORGAN.

SEMINOLE COUNTY  
SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION



WHEREAS, God, in His Infinite Wisdom, has seen fit to call Ben to his final home, and

WHEREAS, Ben was revered and beloved by those of us in The Miami Beach Rod & Reel Club, who appreciated so much his many fine qualities; and

WHEREAS, he had contributed so much to the welfare of the entire State from a conservation standpoint; and,

WHEREAS, we share the feeling of bereavement which his departure from our midst has caused his family and many friends;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon our Minutes, and thereby become a lasting testimonial of the loving esteem in which Ben C. Morgan was held by all of us; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Florida Wildlife Magazine for publication, so that our keen regret may be known and shared by all its readers.

MIAMI BEACH ROD  
AND GUN CLUB



We deeply regret the passing of Ben Morgan. May the inspiration and fight for conservation led by him be our guide for the future.

SOUTHEASTERN VOLUSIA  
COUNTY CONSERVATION CLUB



## STRICKEN WATERS!

(Continued from Page 5)

than half what it is today. This year approximately 300,000 people, including 80,000 non-residents, will buy licenses to fish the fresh waters of Florida. More than 600 fishing camps from the Choctawhatchee River to Lake Okeechobee will cater to their needs. These camps maintain 1,094 cabins and 5,100 boats, representing an annual investment of \$3,500,000. Last year nearly 20,000 duck hunters killed a quarter of a million waterfowl. The income from this harvest was worth over \$1,000,000 to the state's hunting lodges, service stations, sporting goods dealers and whiskey stores. In its 1947 report the Fish and Wildlife Service pegged Florida's annual income from fresh water fish and waterfowl alone at \$53,165,000. Today that estimate would be ultra-conservative.

The maintenance of such an income depends directly upon the continued health and productivity of its source. In other words it depends upon a fertile and accessible network of waterways. *With the possible exception of pollution, water hyacinths and allied pests are today the worst single enemy of Florida's fresh waters.* One of the South's foremost authorities on stream improvement told us recently that, from a fish and wildlife standpoint, hyacinths were actually causing more damage than pollution. He accepted pollution as a worse menace only because of the difficulty and expense of controlling it.

Hyacinths strike at fish life in a half a dozen different ways—all of them destructive. The plant can claim only 10 percent of a small lake and still destroy its game fish crop. To spawn, bass and bream either drape their eggs on submerged vegetation or deposit them in scrupulously clean beds. If there is a free-floating mass of water plants in the lake, sooner or later it will sweep over the nest, destroying the eggs and driving away the spawning fish. If it obscures the sunlight long enough even the submerged vegetation that furnishes the bed will be killed. Fish soon refuse to spawn under such uncertain conditions.

**B**ECAUSE they are in a state of constant decomposition and because they block off normal aeration, hyacinths are notorious robbers of dissolved oxygen. Where there is anything above a moderate concentration you will find the oxygen content of water about one part per million. Three parts per million is the minimum ratio required for game fish survival. When hyacinths sap the oxygen from the water, bass and bream have two alternatives—move on or perish. If there is no place to move, they perish.

On the tail of a series of highwaters last year one of our South Florida cities was

plagued for several weeks by odoriferous rafts of dead fish which kept drifting in on one of its drainage canals. The populace was alarmed and puzzled by the epidemic. Actually it was no "epidemic" at all; it was simply another costly by-product of water hyacinth encroachment. The backwaters of our watersheds almost inevitably succumb to invading hyacinths during long periods of high water. This drives the fish into the open channels that remain; then in the summer when the water goes down, drainage from these oxygen-depleted backwaters sweeps into the fish-crowded channels. The result is another "epidemic" of suffocated bass and bream.

Predator control and balance are two important pieces in the jig-saw puzzle that makes up a well-managed fishery. Hyacinths can kick both to hell and gone. The gar fish is our worst predator, and undoubtedly the most ill-regarded species of underwater life in Florida. Alligator weeds and water hyacinths are his only friends—and visa versa. The gar can breathe air; consequently he survives happily in a body of water almost completely devoid of oxy-

**Florida's turkey buzzards have been frequently accused of spreading hot cholera, but investigations by the State Board of Health indicates that the charge is unfounded.**

**The virus of hog cholera is digested in the intestinal tract of buzzards and the droppings of buzzards fed on the flesh of hogs dead from cholera do not produce cholera when mixed in the feed of hogs.**

gen. In hyacinth infested areas game fish are forced to congregate in what little open water is available. This makes them a sure-fire target for the preying garfish. The ultimate result is always the same—a lake full of worthless predators and no game fish.

Shoreline hyacinth infection may have a somewhat opposite effect by disrupting the balance in favor of forage fish like bluegills. Such aquatic mats destroy almost completely the shoal-water spawning grounds of the bass. Bream and other panfish, however, are able to spawn in deeper water. A few years of this sort of thing will leave an overpopulation of bream and virtually no bass.

**T**HE WATER hyacinth vitally affects every type fisherman whether he is a rod-and-reeler, trot-liner or netter, but the man who stands to lose most is the cane-pole addict. The federal report to Congress pointed this out.

"The cane-pole fisherman has been hardest hit by hyacinths and alligator weed," the report said. "The roadside borrow pits, canals and small ponds in which he fishes are most susceptible to weed infestation,

and will eventually be destroyed if the pest is not controlled."

It is difficult to estimate Florida's hyacinth damage to waterfowl. Experts, however, figure that approximately one-third of our fresh water duck marshes are either infected or directly threatened by the green menace. These marshes support fully half of the state's normal winter influx of 1,000,000 birds. Waterfowl must have both resting and feeding grounds. In Florida, the Fish and Wildlife Service reports, alligator weed and hyacinths are encroaching upon and destroying both to an "alarming degree." Any surface-covering aquatic overwhelms and kills all-important marginal duck food plants. As it creeps over a feeding ground, the ducks concentrate on what open area is left. The result is a depleted food supply, an inordinately heavy kill and an open road to parasitism and disease.

All these creeping inroads on our fish and wildlife, the federal service estimates snowball into an annual cash loss to the state of exactly \$5,316,500.

**F**IVE million dollars is by no means chicken-feed, but reliable authorities figure it is less than half the total damage caused by hyacinths each year. Louisiana estimates her annual loss to hyacinths at 10 to 15 million dollars. Though Florida's infestation area is smaller than that of Louisiana, the resources affected are more varied and more valuable. Where our crop value per acre is figured at \$21.27, Louisiana's is estimated at only \$15.67. The values of other affected resources are pretty well proportionate.

Water hyacinths are no one-shot menace. They strike at a dozen different interests from a dozen different angles. Commerce, flood control, irrigation, agriculture, fish and wildlife, and even public health—all are vital to the state and all are besieged and encroached upon by the purple menace. Even aviation has had trouble avoiding the taint of the hyacinth. At a army engineer hearing in Tallahassee three years ago, former State Aviation Director William C. Lazarus testified that hyacinths were playing havoc with the development of amphibious and seaplane bases in inland Florida. Despite the fact that Florida boasted a greater water area than any other state in the nation, Lazarus pointed out that at the time the state had less than 40 seaplane bases. He added significantly that three-fourths of these were on salt water, in spite of the fact that salt water corrosion was known to create a tough maintenance problem. The indication was that expensive maintenance was preferable to landing on a floating island of hyacinths. The U. S. Geological Survey pointed up the problem when floating hyacinths

(Continued Page 18)





# Clubs

By RALPH G. COOKSEY  
President, Florida Wildlife Federation

## United Front

The Sportsmen of Florida have taken a great deal of credit unto themselves for the success of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission during the past two years.

It is a fact that there never was a more united and enthusiastic group of persons interested in seeing this Commission function efficiently than those sportsmen who gave, of their own free will, their time and efforts to help this reorganized board get started on the right track.

They, and the members of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission were solidly united, until the Commission was well under way on its own stout feet. And like magic, that was soon.

The Florida Wildlife Federation was the representative body of those sportsmen, and still is. The Federation has carried through, with contacts and co-ordination, the program that was developed in those early days. It has been called upon both by the Commission and by the sportsmen for advice and innovations to improve the efficiency of the Commission and its services to the State. However, the ranks of sportsmen-assistants has gradually fallen away, and the work is being carried on at present by a few officers of the Federation and a few of the still interested sportsmen. Yet, the purpose of the Sportsmen's Clubs is to see conservation practices, laws, and regulations enforced. The Commission is left to manage this responsibility alone.

Some of those sportsmen who were so eager to do something for conservation still are actively taking a part in it, by notifying the Federation or the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission of needs in their respective localities, and reporting violations as they see them occur. This is the type of co-operation expected of the sportsmen, and needed from them to make any conservation agency effective. This co-operation preserves a united front.

## Reporting Violations

Any sportsman who observes the violation of game or fresh water fishing laws and regulations should feel that that violator is a thief, stealing his personal possession.

It is the same, whether a violator is stealing our fish and game, or whether he may be stealing our rods and reels, or our guns.

Is there any sportsman who would tolerate the theft of his fishing gear or hunting equipment and not report this immediately to his local law enforcement officers, and if he knew the thief's name, not shout it out? Yet, what good use will a sportsman put his fishing gear and gun to, when his quarry is extinct? Is it not a good deal like locking a barn door after the horse is gone, to allow wholesale vandalism and destruction of our game and fish, while we would protect our rods and guns?

Perhaps a sportsman may feel that he is not powerful enough to report the mayor of his town, when he sees him hanging up his daily limit on a certain tree four or five times in one day, going back after dark and loading them up to have a big quail supper at the country club.

Perhaps a lakeside dweller sees netting going on, right under his eyes, and discusses it daily with neighbors who agree with him that certainly it is a terrible thing, and should be stopped, but leaves it to "somebody else" to "stick their neck out."

Sportsmen, this is not holding a united front. With a total of nearly 250,000 persons fishing in the fresh water streams and lakes of Florida, it would be an impossibility for the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, with its present staff and operating margin, to supervise every one of these fishermen and hold them to the letter of the law.

This Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission is YOUR baby. Now that you've got it, don't leave it on the other fellow's doorstep. Take care of it and help it by nourishing it with the proper care and assistance.

If you know of violations and fail to report them, but circulate rumors that you KNOW of them, you are as guilty as the fellow who is breaking the law. You are an accessory, and under the laws an accessory is as guilty as the fellow committing the crime.

The Federation will gladly be the goat if you think that you need one—if someone is too big for you to report. There is no one in the State who is immune from penalties if he breaks the laws of this State.

In the parlance of the bait-houses, if you've got any dope on anybody trot out the snakes. Don't go around gabbing

yappety-yap about Mayor Doolittle or Judge Whodoodit taking fifty quail apiece and having a big fling at the Country Club, unless you are telling it to the Game Commission officers. And when you tell it, sportsmen, the Federation and the Game Commission will uphold you.

Let's strengthen that good old united front that we all started out with. Give the Commission your hand, and we don't mean the back of it. Hold to a united front.

## Your Legislations

As you know, the Legislature convened April 5th, and the Federation has exerted every effort to carry through the type of legislation that you sportsmen have indicated you need in your various localities. But, so that no one will be disappointed, the Federation desires to make it clear that no one Bill from any Club, designed to affect the statewide interests of ALL sportsmen, or the public in general, has been endorsed by the Federation.

However, in all fairness to any and all Clubs who have tried to suggest what they thought would benefit the whole State, the Federation referred these subjects to the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, and from those accumulated proposals have come the several Bills which the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission referred to the Legislature for enactment.

It is easy for a man down in Key West to study conditions in Escambia and finally believe that he has the solution, and just as easy for the man in Escambia, interested in Key West to stir up sentiment in some Bill to solve Key West's problems. And, in some cases, we have had some pretty good legislation passed for some sections of the State that originated in the mind of a Senator from a far distant section.

That is the reason that the Federation did not pass up ANY suggested Bills from any Club, but put them all in the pot for careful consideration, and it is our sincere hope, that when you receive the reports of the laws and regulations passed which will affect and, we believe, benefit, the State as a whole, that you will be satisfied, and will do all in your power to help your neighbors to feel satisfied, too.

This has been hard work, sportsmen, and the Federation wishes to thank one and all who so diligently worked on the problems before us. Thank you.

The job acquainting youth with their wildlife heritage and their responsibility to it is being undertaken in St. Petersburg where a Junior Conservation Club is being organized by the local Florida Wildlife Federation chapter.

At the initial meeting, ten St. Petersburg youths expressed a desire to become members of the club which will be open to all students of the Junior and Senior classes in high school and all young people who are under 18.



# They're **BITING** Here

## LAKE TRAFFORD

"I got the limit" is the remark often heard these days on Lake Trafford, three miles west of Imokalee, near LaBelle. The speckled perch and crappies are taking all top-water minnows in sight. The best results have been had early in the morning although some anglers have been making fine catches late in the afternoon. Fighting bass are grabbing live bait but not to the extent that speckled perch are biting. The perch are giving everyone more good fishing than they have known in this section in a long time.

★ ★ ★

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

They might not be catching the biggest fish in the state in Washington County but they are catching their share of little ones in Hicks, Waepest and Rattlesnake ponds. Hicks pond is proving to be the favorite spot for the many anglers in this section; early morn and late evening the favorite time and underwater lures the favorite bait.

★ ★ ★

## SEMINOLE COUNTY

Lake Howell, Lake Spring and the St. Johns River are affording some of the best speckled perch and bass fishing in Central Florida. Using minnows for "specks" and shiners for bass, Seminole residents are catching their limit practically every trip out. For variety, these fortunate anglers are trolling for shad on the St. Johns River and are having "very good" luck at Lemon Bluff.

★ ★ ★

## ESCAMBIA RIVER

If you hanker for tasty pan fish you can't pick a better fishing spot than Governor's Bayou in the Escambia River near Pensacola. Fishing on the low tide near the mouth of Governor's Bayou, Escambia county fishing folk have been catching the limit of shellcrackers. The favorite bait has been earth worms, although wigglers have also brought in some fine strings.

## LAKE KERR

Ten bass, 90 pounds, 10 ounces—that's the story of Walt Casteel's two day trip to Lake Kerr this month. Lake Kerr is in the Ocala National Forest. You might be as lucky as Walt if you use shiners in the middle of the Lake early in the morning or late in the evening.

Another catch of four bass which weighed 35 pounds, 20 ounces was reported. Shiners are the most popular bait in use on the lake although a jointed frog bait called "the dot" is tops as artificial lure.

★ ★ ★

## ST. MARYS RIVER

Fresh water fish enthusiasts from Jacksonville as well as residents of Nassau County are finding excellent fishing in the St. Marys River. The bream are going for worms in a big way and the black bass are showing a definite taste for underwater bait. All up and down Mills and Boggie Creeks is the favorite grounds for the anglers who fish on the half tide, in and out.

★ ★ ★

## BRADFORD COUNTY

Folks are getting the bag limit on bream and bass with a few catfish thrown in for good measure on Lakes Powell and Sampson, near New River. They are finding ample bream in the channel of the lakes and bass around its edges to make them want to return to these two lakes whenever business and weather permits. Fishing early and late and using worms for bream and minnows for bass, anglers are finding the fishing good in all the lakes in this county but especially good in Lakes Powell and Sampson.

★ ★ ★

## DEAD LAKES

If you are a real talented fisherman or just plain lucky you might duplicate Moody Eldridge's 25-pound rockfish caught with shiners in Dead Lakes this month. The bream and shellcrackers are giving earthworms and crickets a play.

Robert

DeLeon



## STRICKEN WATERS!

(Continued from Page 15)

caused it to abandon a plan to use seaplanes in reading water level gauges in the Kissimmee River.

Lazarus' testimony came at a time when builders were swamped with a backlog of 25,000 seaplane orders, yet there was less than a handful of dealers in the inland counties of this state. He estimated our hyacinth-studded lakes had held up a potential 3,000-ship market in South and Central Florida. More recently shifting banks of water weed cost a GI flying school in Polk County its contract with the Veterans Administration. The seaplanes the school operated were hemmed in so often by hyacinths, that students consistently failed to get in their required flying time. When the VA withdrew its approval the school promptly folded—another economic casualty chargeable to the water hyacinth.

**W**HAT the hyacinth has done in the air can be multiplied many times over and applied to ground and water commerce. The State Road Department spends thousands of dollars each year literally to keep the hyacinth off the highway. There isn't much likelihood of the pavement itself becoming a host, but there are 4,000 miles of roadside ditches in the state that must be constantly guarded against encroachment by floating aquatics. A few years back, in the Okeechobee section, highwaters floated such a mass of hyacinths onto the highway that traffic had to be detoured for two days while the mess was cleared away. About three years ago a man and his son were seriously injured on the Tamiami Trail when their automobile skidded out of control on a drift of slippery hyacinths. Last year in Louisiana a hyacinth-covered borrow-pit cost a man and wife their lives. The couple's car went out of control and plugged into the six-foot waters of the pit. Two fishermen saw the car sink less than 10 feet from the road, but the area was so congested with a withering mass of plants that it was 50 minutes before the men could get to the car and wrench open a door.

Hyacinth jams are the annual headache of practically every county engineer in South Florida. Every year when flood waters are rampant extra crews have to be hired to clear away packs of hyacinths that pile under bridges and over roads. In 1933 hyacinth jams cost Hillsborough county every county bridge crossing the Hillsborough River. Engineer E. W. Carroll reported that some of the drifts were so packed they had to be sawed out with cross-cut saws. An 80-foot section of one bridge had to be torn away before the tangled dam of weeds could be broken. Another bridge was pushed completely over.

Carroll estimated the hyacinth damage to bridges alone that year at over \$50,000.

Though few people realized it, water commerce is still an important part of Florida's business, and over a period of 60 years water hyacinths have menaced it con-

### *Did You Know That-*

**Quail can be trained. Many humans have won the complete confidence of particular birds. Not only have the birds lost all fear of humans, but some have shown a decided fondness for human companionship, uttering their "scatter call" as soon as they are left alone.**

• • •

**Vultures are sometimes blamed for transfer of cattle diseases from one pasture to another. This is possible on the wide ranges where dead cattle are never buried. However, no definite facts have been found to prove it. The flies, which frequent the living as well as the dead, seem much more likely carriers.**

• • •

**A supply of surface water is not essential to the bobwhite for drinking purposes in Florida, and except as it affects the food supply, its presence or absence upon quail lands is immaterial.**

• • •

**Bass and other sunfish rarely, if ever, take any food while guarding their eggs. Nature has evidently taken their appetite away during this period to prevent them from eating their own spawn. Immediately before and after spawning however, they feed heavily. It is during one of these periods that fishermen have their best success in fishing "on the beds."**

• • •

**Bird lovers, sportsmen, and farmers all desire to see the bobwhite in Florida maintained in abundance. The bird lover must be shown that quail can be maintained in quantity by production methods. The sportsman must become reconciled to regarding quail shooting for what it is—a luxury well worth paying for. Then the landowner, who holds the whip hand, will regard the quail not as an incentive to trespass but as an attractive auxiliary crop worth his efforts to produce.**

stantly. If it were not for the constant vigilance of the U. S. Engineers, barge lines operating in St. Johns and Withlacoochee Rivers and the Okeechobee Waterway would have had to close up shop years ago. Even with the Army pouring \$70,000 a year into the fight, the hyacinth problem

in our navigable streams is still acute. At a hearing in West Palm Beach a couple of years ago, the Murphy Construction Company testified that it required a total of seven days to move a barge load of machinery from Lake Okeechobee to Belle Glade—a distance of some four or five miles. One single stretch of hyacinths held up two tugboats, a dredge and a crew of five men for five days. The delay cost the company several thousand dollars.

**U**NFORTUNATELY for some and fortunately for others, Florida's hyacinth scourge is still fairly concentrated. Five counties—Polk, Okeechobee, Highlands, Palm Beach and Volusia—contain half of the hyacinths in the state. The worst infested areas are found along the Kissimmee, St. Johns, Withlacoochee and Peace rivers. There are 15 counties with over 1,000 acres of hyacinths in them. Ironically, the counties which depend heavily upon their water have been hardest hit.

Polk County, for instance, advertises itself as a land of lakes. It has an estimated 300,000 acres of water within its boundaries; yet 10,347 of these acres are smothering under a cloak of hyacinths, and another 30,000 acres are hopelessly fenced off. In other words, nearly 15 percent of Polk County's total water area has been devastated directly or indirectly by hyacinths. In little Citrus County, which depends on hunting and fishing for its livelihood, more than half of the fishable water has been lost or damaged because of hyacinths.

Only 12 of Florida's counties, most of them west of the Apalachicola River, have escaped unscathed. We asked one of the federal government's veteran hyacinth control men if he could explain why. As far as he could see, there was only one concrete item responsible. When we asked him what it was, he said:

"Plain damn luck!"

"Just give 'em time," he then added. "They'll get there."

He showed us a series of charts to back up his prediction. Gradually the plant is creeping westward. Already it has nudged into the panhandle as far as Gulf County. Between 400 and 500 acres can already be found in Lake Talquin, and Lake Miccosukee is literally wrapped in allied water weeds of one kind or another.

From all the study and all the research that went into preparing this article there came out one outstanding conclusion:

*No lake or stream in the State of Florida is immune from the insatiable appetite of the water hyacinth.*

(To be continued)

*(Next month the authors will reveal how the hyacinth strikes at flood control, irrigation, property values and even public health. They will also explain where it came from and what can be done about it.—Ed.)*



## SILVER LIGHTNING

(Continued from Page 11)

poles are the answer to full success with the shad. Both exhibited neat appearing outfits that they'd wrapped themselves. On the other hand, scores of the fishermen have refused to trade their casting rods and reels for flyrods. They too were getting their share of fish on their frequent trips up and down the St. Johns.

"It don't make a darn bit of difference what kind of riggin' you use," one old timer told me. "When the shad are hittin' they don't care whether you're using a rod and reel, a flyrod or a cracker pole."

At any event, everyone in the area is getting his full share of shad along with something brand new in the way of fishing thrills. Shad roe, listed as a delicacy in the north, has become as common as ham and eggs in Deland. Now that the new sport is catching on, members of the Volusia County Wildlife Association claim they're faced with a brand new conservation problem.

"A lot of fishermen are catching more shad than they need—there should be a legal limit," one sportsman suggested recently.

But how are you going to limit the catch on a salt water fish that goes crazy in fresh water and starts hitting at artificial minnows?

Other sportsmen are complaining that many individuals are taking home unnecessarily large quantities of shad roe. One of them told me that four visitors from the north wound up a trip in a charter boat with a "wash tub full" of roe. Problems such as these already pose a \$64 question that very likely will have to be answered after shad fishing becomes a recognized sport here in Florida.

Meanwhile, here's a final word of warning from the shad fishing "inventor."

Shad have brittle mouths—don't attempt to strong-arm them to the boat—play along with them or you'll jerk the mouth completely off of the fish.

Shad, you'll find, fight with bulldog tenacity. They'll still be battling when you take them aboard with a landing net—just another trait that destines shad fishing to become a top-flight sport for thrill seeking Isaac Waltons.



Hatchery Maintenance Engineer Tommy Masters and Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine examine the new self-aerating live fish truck recently bought by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

## Specially-built Truck For Transporting Fish Is Purchased by State

A new type, self-aerating tank truck designed to transport adult fish from one end of Florida to the other with practically no mortality has been purchased by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine said the truck, containing 36 individual stainless steel tanks, is equipped with a continuous circulating water system and is insulated to insure constant temperature in each compartment.

The new \$8,000 distribution unit will transport over 360 pounds of fish on a three-day journey in hot weather with no deaths enroute, Dequine said. The death rate was extremely high in the old fish tank truck which had a 200 pound maximum carrying capacity and an eight-hour travel time limit.

Essentially the new equipment will be used in fish rescue work—transferring game fish from isolated pot-holes to fresh water lakes and streams in all parts of the state. The truck will be based at Wewahitchka.

## 2,500 QUAIL TRAPPED

More than 2,500 city quail have been trapped and released on Hillsborough County's open hunting ranges in the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's quail restocking program.

The quail are trapped within city limits and in other no hunting areas and transported to the country. Sportsmen's club members do the trapping and releasing work under the supervision of game commission biologists.

## Airplane, Radio Help Trap 'Gator Poacher

An airplane patrol and two-way radios enabled State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission law enforcement officers to nab a livestock range rider who killed alligators for their skins in Collier County.

Stanley Whidden of Bonita Springs, employed as rider in the State Livestock Sanitary Commission's tick eradication program, was fined \$100 in county court at Everglades for possessing three illegal alligator hides. He was arrested by Wildlife Officers Parker Johnson and Harvey Douglas in the Big Cypress game breeding grounds in February.

This is how Whidden was apprehended:

Information that livestock range riders were killing alligators instead of the "wild cattle" they are hired to eliminate reached Curtis Wright, chief wildlife officer for the fourth district.

Wright relayed the information to Eugene Wright, game commission pilot on patrol, who spotted Whidden's camp, saw the alligator hides and radioed the information to the two officers.

Acting upon the hot tip, the wildlife officers made a 5-mile night trip into the swamp, reaching Whidden's camp site early in the morning only to find him gone. They followed the livestock rider's tracks and caught him with the hides in camp when he stopped for lunch.

There is no open season for taking alligator hides in Collier County.

Milton Kemp of Sydney caught the season's largest black marlin off the coast of Australia on March 3. The marlin weighed 883 pounds.



## CINCH BAIT FOR BASS

(Continued from Page 9)

than a half mile down the road. The price here was \$2.50 a dozen!

I decided to return to the hotel in Brooksville convinced that eels might seem high in price but there seemed to be a general agreement that they were the "best bass bait in the business."

After noon I piled into an automobile with Kent and Jewelle, Ed and Gladys and we headed out on a trip that was destined to change my entire outlook on bass fishing generally and eels specifically.

We pulled up at a dubious looking pond. It didn't cover more than two acres and the water was spotted with hyacinths.

Immediately, Kent and Ed started unloading some of the strangest looking gear I have ever seen. It consisted of a five-tined pitchfork, a four-foot square of window screen and a number of small boards to secure the screen to.

"This is our eel catching gear," Kent explained when he saw my puzzled expression. "The girls will catch 'em while we are getting our fishing gear together."

I was more interested in eels than in bass, so I decided to follow the girls.

Wearing knee-length boots, the three of us picked up the "Rube Goldberg" eel gear and started wading into the pond. The girls stopped suddenly as we reached as especially thick patch of hyacinth.

"Quit talking and don't splash the water," one of them warned. "If we make any noise they'll scatter and bury themselves in the mud and you couldn't catch 'em with a steam shovel."

One of them layed the screen on top of a clump of hyacinth while the other pulled up other hyacinth growth and started shaking it vigorously over the screen.

My eyes bugged when, squirming there on the screen, I looked at two of the jumpiest, wiggliest creatures, about five inches long, that I have ever seen.

"Eels," Gladys whispered. She transferred them to a half-gallon can.

Seven swipes of the pitchfork at other clumps of hyacinth gave us what I considered about par for the course. In less than 15 minutes the girls had accounted for three dozen.

We were ready to return to shore when Jewelle suddenly plunged the pitchfork into the water. I swallowed hard a couple times when she raised it and exhibited a four-foot moccasin safely snared on the fork tine.

"That's the reason we wear boots when we go eel hunting," she explained.

Returning to shore, we were ready to begin fishing. The girls chose long cane poles. Kent, Ed and I picked out rods and reels. All of the lines, hooks and sinkers had been rigged just as for any other type of fishing. There was one exception, there were no floats on the lines.

"Bass wouldn't give us a tumble if we used floats," Kent told me, "they hit the eels when they're on the bottom trying to burrow into the mud."

We started to bait up and this, I

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## DUCK DRESSING SERVICE

A new and practical method of obtaining samples of ducks killed by hunters has been worked out by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game.

By setting up a dressing station at which the messy task of plucking and dressing ducks was handled free for sportsmen, technicians operating this station during the last season were able to obtain more than an adequate sample of specimens for examination. The method reportedly resulted in the most accurate and complete sex and age data ever recorded at a station of this size.

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found, was my biggest problem of the day. Getting eels out of the half-gallon can was a major item but it was as nothing when compared to trying to hold it and get it on a hook. Six times I completely missed the eel's back and mighty near wound up by baiting myself on the hook.

Observing my difficulty, one of the boys explained that the knack of the thing was to bend the eel between two fingers and then, with your hook in the other hand, ram it through the back about an inch from the tail.

"Makes 'em wiggle a lot better," he told me.

Then the fishing started.

I cast my eel bait just a few feet over a sunken log and before it had a chance to reach the bottom, there was a huge swirl, a mighty tug on my line, and a skip in my heart. But

I missed him. Over-anxious or maybe too unexpected, I reasoned between cuss-words.

Meanwhile Jewelle had waded out into knee-deep water and started fishing near the center of the pond. In a mere matter of moments she started tugging a fish ashore.

"Doggone it," she exclaimed, "a bream."

True enough it was a bream but not the kind to complain about. When weighed later, it proved to be just a fraction under two pounds.

In the very next second she squealed, and her cane pole tipped down to the water surface. But like a veteran she eased the fish to shore without once giving him slack line or a chance to throw the hook. It was one of the prettiest five-pound black bass I have ever seen.

Boy, I was thinking to myself, ever since I can remember I've been living and fishing in Florida—where have the eels been all my life?

Kent was the next to connect with a big one. Then Gladys hauled in another that looked like a twin of her first. Later, Gladys snagged and lost her line and while we were giving her a new outfit, Ed's reel started to sing. A five minute battle and he brought ashore the top honors of the day—seven pounds and two ounces of it. I wound up the day's activities by landing a six-pound battling beauty.

A look at my watch showed that we'd been at the pond exactly an hour and thirty-five minutes, including the time used in catching the three dozen eels.

There's no doubt of it, this had been one of my swellest fishing trips and it's a cinch it was all the result of the bait we used. I call 'em eels but the state biologists say they're *Pseudobranchius Straitus*. But no matter what name you give 'em—eels are tops in my language. And, like I said before, you can find them in almost every mud-bottom lake in Florida. Another excellent feature about eels is that they keep well. For two weeks, I've kept the balance of the three dozen we caught that day. Although they're in a jar of pond water, they're just as lively as when the girls "shook them out" of the hyacinth.

Just as soon as I hand this story to my editor, I'm heading back to that Brooksville pond to see if these eels and bass will put on a repeat performance.



## County License Bill Goes Before Solons

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is asking the 1949 legislature for a one-dollar county fishing license. The proposed license would save the "home fishing" rod-and-reeler a dollar, but would cost the county cane-pole fisherman a dollar.

Under the present license schedule the rod-and-reel fisherman must pay \$2, regardless of where he fishes, while the county cane-pole angler is exempted from any fees.

The \$2 resident state license would remain unchanged, and the current exemption for those under 15 and over 65 would still apply.

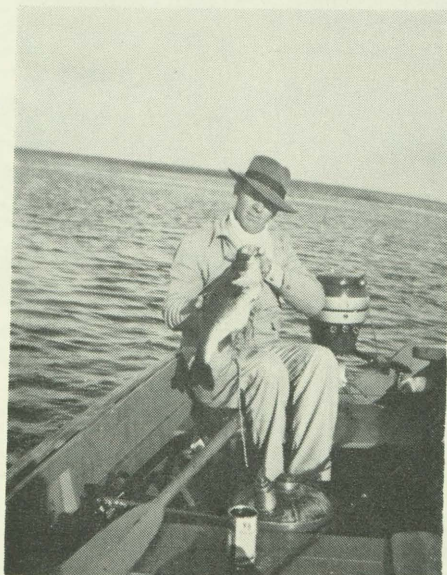
The approved proposal differs from the one first made by the late Ben C. Morgan, former commission director. Under his proposal there would have been no cut in fees for the county rod-and-reel fisherman.

The new director, Coleman Newman, estimated that the bill, if passed, would provide about \$250,000 additional revenue. The money, he said, would be used for hyacinth eradication in South and Central Florida, and for lake fertilization and improvement in North Florida.

### COOKSEY INVITED

The Sportsmen's Club of America invited Federation President Ralph Cooksey to appear on their guest program held in Chicago last month.

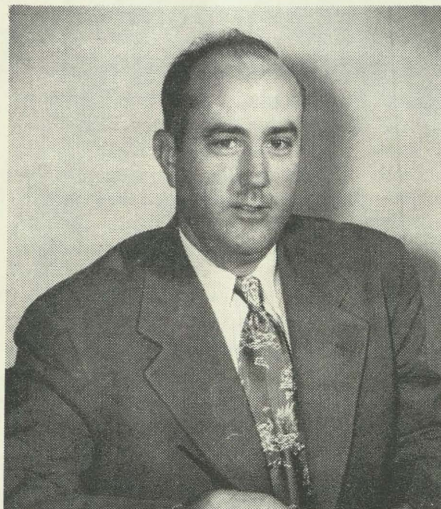
Others who appeared on this program were Edgar Guest, Bob Burns of radio fame, Dr. Preston Bradley, Lee Wulff, Leonard Schwartz, Leroy H. Dorsey, Ding Darling, and David Newell.



A. L. Ernest caught this beautiful bass while trying his luck in the north end of Lake Okeechobee.

## Coleman Newman Is Named New Game Commission Head

Coleman Newman, 37, of Monticello, has been named director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, succeeding the late Ben C. Morgan. Newman had served as Morgan's administrative assistant since January.



COLEMAN NEWMAN

### FISHING FOR DUCKS

**Charles Townsend, 73, recommends a rod and reel instead of a shotgun when out after duck.**

**Townsend went fishing at Miami Beach and landed a duck. Then he landed in Crimes court charged with violating federal statutes protecting migratory birds.**

**Townsend plead innocent of intent. He claimed he wanted a fish, not a duck, to bit his hook baited with bread.**

**Judge Wayne Alden, a duck hunter, gave the duck-catching angler a suspended sentence.**

### Deer, Turkey Project Headed by Stanberry

Fred W. Stanberry of St. Petersburg has been named to head Florida's deer and turkey restoration project. O. Earl Frye, chief wildlife biologist, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, has announced.

A graduate of the University of Florida's school of forestry Stanberry, has been employed since January 3 as assistant leader of the deer and turkey project. For the past two months he has been in Jackson and Glades Counties trapping turkeys to be released in state wildlife preserves and public hunting grounds. The restoration project was formerly headed by Coleman Newman, who is now director.

Previously Stanberry was employed as game supervisor by the Union Bag and Paper Company.

The new director was selected at a special commission meeting in Tallahassee March 14. His salary was set at \$7,000 a year.

Newman joined the commission two years ago to head up a deer and turkey restoration project. He was formerly a wildlife biologist with the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission. A former teacher, Newman has been in game management work for nearly 10 years. He attended Sul Ross College and Texas A. & M.

Newman was put in charge of the commission's land acquisition program last July. To date 53,000 acres to be used as wildlife preserves and public hunting grounds have been bought outright and 120,000 acres leased.

A married man, Newman has two sons, ages nine and twelve.

## Fred Etchen Claims Florida Skeet Title

Fred Etchen, 66-year-old Miamian, one of the world's greatest all-around spots, and author of shotgun books and sportsman, topped Florida high average trapshooters last season with a mark of .9767 on 1,550 targets.

Etchen, who operates a gun club in Miami won the Florida state trapshooting championship last year, along with the state doubles and all-around championships.

Francis Ellis, Jacksonville, placed second among the state high average leaders last year with .9630 on 1,650 clays.

Third place went to John Haliburton, Coral Gables, who hit the flying discs for a mark of .9587 on 1,650 pigeons, nosing out J. C. Ditto of Miami who scored .9533. Helen Monk, Miami, topped Florida women gunners with .9238 on 1,550 targets. Joan Pfleuger, 17-year-old Miami gunner was second.

Florida leaders were:

	Shot at	Broke	Average
Etchen, Fred, Miami.....	1550	1514	.9767
Ellis, Francis, Jacksonville..	1650	1589	.9630
Haliburton, John,			
Coral Gables.....	1650	1582	.9587
Ditto, J. C., Miami.....	3750	3576	.9533
Bennett, Fran, Miami.....	2400	2287	.9529
Taylor, John R., Eustis.....	2500	2381	.9524
Geiger, Bart, Miami.....	4450	4226	.9496
Atwood, Henry,			
Ft. Lauderdale.....	5000	4683	.9365
Coffey, R. C., Orlando.....	2200	2053	.9331

Florida's Webb Plan was highly commended as a new and highly constructive move toward better relations between hunters and land owners at the annual North American Wildlife Conference.



# Game Commission Plans Stiff Training Course For Officers

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission got plans underway last month to set up a permanent "game law enforcement college" that will put Florida's wildlife officers on a par with the best in the nation.

Director Coleman Newman said the commission will establish a permanent training school where prospective wildlife officers will be taught the up-to-date methods of game and fisheries management, law enforcement, court procedure, and public relations. In addition, students attending the "wildlife college" would be assigned to various sections of the state during their schooling to receive practical field experience under the direction of veteran wildlife officers.

All future wildlife officers will be put through a stiff three months basic training course before being assigned to active duty, Newman said. Present members of the agency's law enforcement branch will be given a refresher course at the school shortly after the first class of candidates graduate.

"Police departments in most cities require rookie officers to undergo a period of training of from six weeks to six months," Newman explained. "If such preparation pays off in criminal law enforcement it certainly will pay off in game law enforcement."

Although most of the instructors for the course, the director said, will be drafted from the commission's present law enforcement and technical staff, qualified experts will be brought in for special short courses. Newman says he hopes to obtain use of a deactivated army camp "somewhere in central Florida."

## Vast Hunting Grounds In Southwest Florida Pledged to Webb Plan

More than 800,000 acres of formerly closed Southwest Florida rangelands will be open to hunting this year, thanks to the Webb Plan.

Cecil Webb, Third District Commissioner, who is father of the plan, said that 31 landowners scattered over nine counties are now cooperating in the "gentlemen's agreement."

Under the agreement, the landowner opens his land to limited hunting and receives in return rigid protection from wildlife officers, as well as a promise of good-conduct from the hunter. The plan was inaugurated last year.

Webb said all the ranchers who participated last season have again opened their lands and additional ranchers have joined up. The largest single tract of land opened is 125,000 acres in Glades and Okeechobee Counties, belonging to John Lykes of Tampa.

## Lewis Is Appointed To Succeed Rogers

M. C. Lewis, Orlando, has been appointed new Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioner of Florida's Fifth District. He succeeds Lawrence (Larry) Rogers, Kissimmee attorney, who resigned last month.

Governor Warren said Rogers notified him that he was resigning because he needed more time to devote to his law practice.

Lewis, an ardent sportsman, is president of the Lewis Candy and Tobacco Company with offices at Orlando, Daytona Beach, Ocala, and Gainesville. A resident of Orlando for the past 26 years, he belongs to various sportsmen's clubs among which are the Sportsmen's Club of America and the Orange County Sportsmen's Association at Orlando.

The executive secretary reports that 15,000 pieces of literature have been distributed by the Federation since November and that correspondence covering the same period totals 4,334 letters.



Dell Hartt, left, and Harry Smith display a string of 19 bass caught in the Ochlockonee river just below the Sopchoppy bridge. M. E. Tolson, who helped boat the fish, was absent when the picture was taken.

## Quail Food Producing Trees Being Planted

More than 10,000 lespedeza bicolor seedlings which will produce an abundant supply of quail food for early spring are to be planted on farms in Florida's Blackwater Conservation District this year.

Farmers cooperating with the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Soil Conservation Service have already received the seedlings.

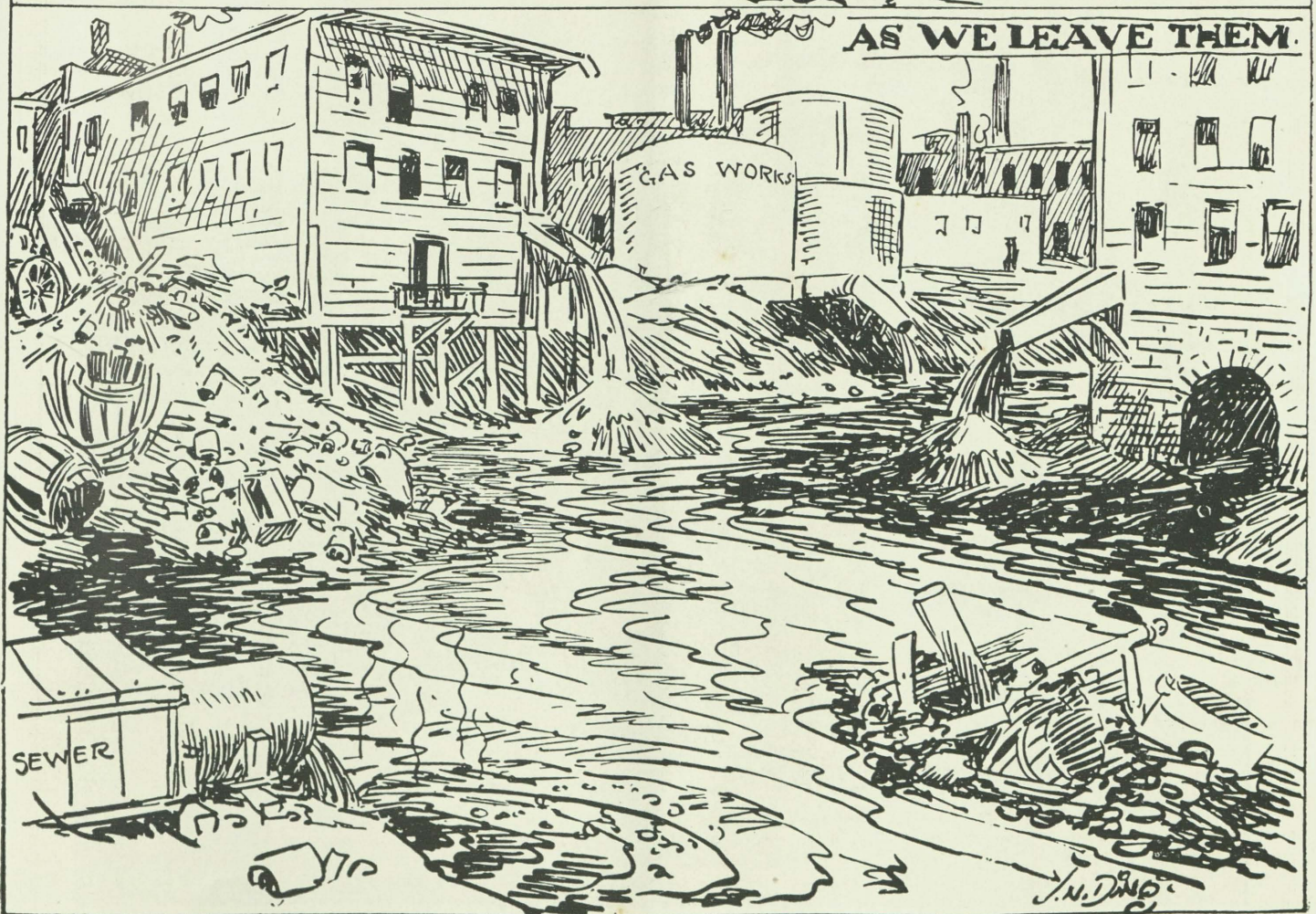


This exhibit of big bass, presented by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at the Central Florida Exposition, Orlando, attracted more than 100,000 visitors. The exhibit also included 15 cages of wild animals and game birds. Wildlife Officers who assisted in presenting the exhibit are: L. A. Tindall, E. R. Bronson, Ben Reeves, Will Tanner, Ass't. Chief Mallery Welsh, and Tom Watson Lanier.





**AS WE FOUND THEM**

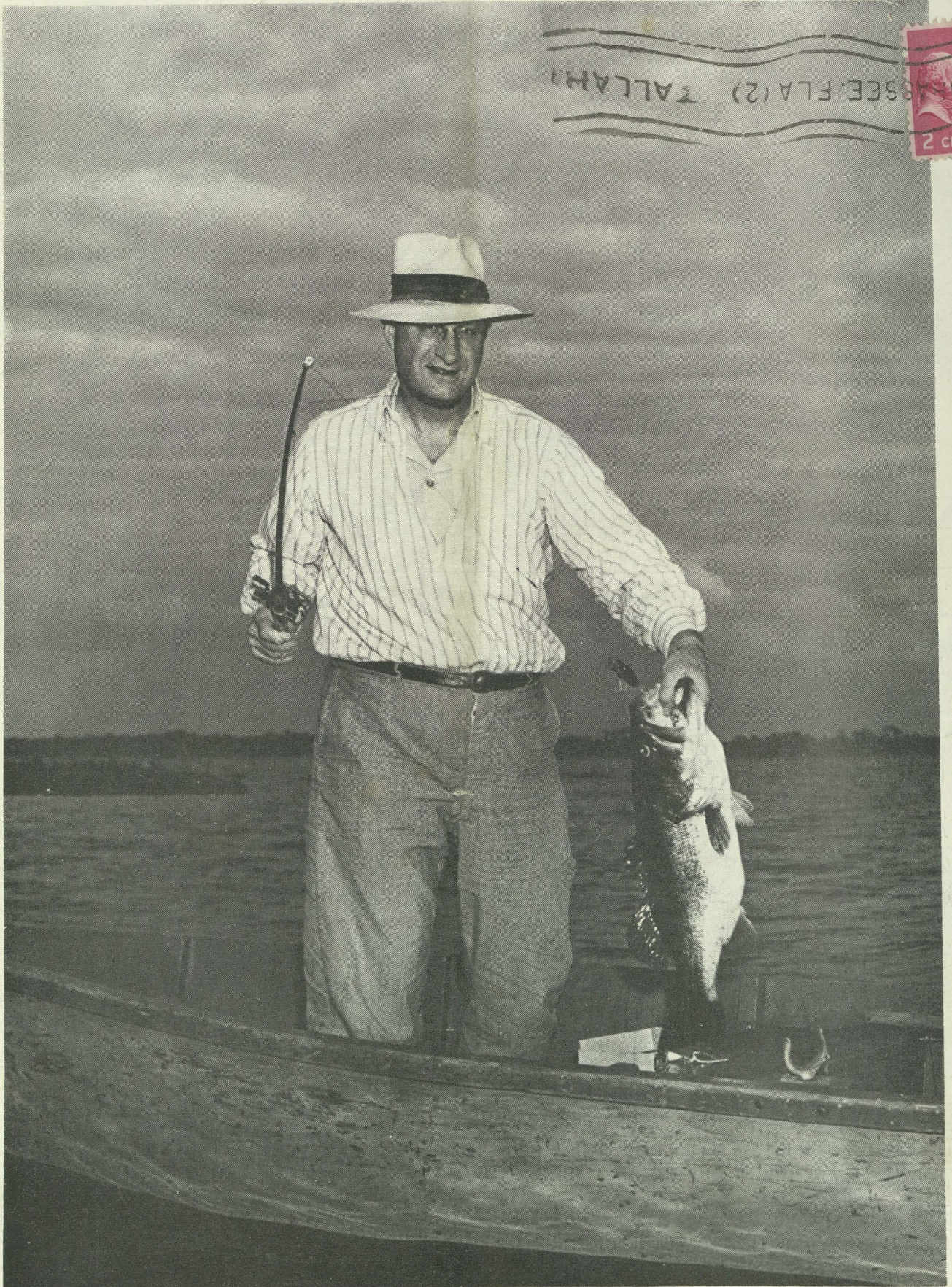


**AS WE LEAVE THEM**



The Library  
State Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida

TALLAHASSEE, FLA (2)



. . . BASS FOR SUPPER